

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION OS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 /021 W

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R 061001Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4486

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, IS, AFSP

SUBJ: AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL

1. WALWORTH BARBOUR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS FACING A CRITICAL FINANCIAL SITUATION. CURRENT PROJECTED OPERATING DEFICIT IS AROUND \$120,000, IN CONTRAST TO MODERATE DEFICIT PLANNED WHEN SCHOOL BOARD PREPARED 1974/75 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET IN MAY. MAJOR PROBLEM IS DROP IN ENROLLMENT, FROM ANTICIPATED 320 FULL TUITION STUDENTS TO ACTUAL ENROLLMENT OF 260 FULL TUITION STUDENTS. DROP IN ENROLLMENT DUE TO VARIETY OF FACTORS, MAINLY FAMILIES LEAVING ISRAEL AND HIGH COST OF TUITION. LOSS IN ESTIMATED INCOME FROM TUITION AGGRAVATED BY MUCH GREATER IMPACT OF INFLATION ON SALARIES AND OTHER COSTS THAN EXPECTED. SCHOOL BOARD IN LAST SIX MONTHS HAS INCREASED TUITION FROM \$1200 TO \$1600 TO \$1725 PER YEAR, AND IS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM NON-USG SOURCES. HOWEVER, SCHOOL DESPERATELY NEEDS FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR 1974/75 ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT BEYOND \$32,000 GRANT ALREADY ALLOCATED.

2. WE REALIZE MANY OVERSEAS SCHOOLS FACE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. BUT HERE IN ISRAEL WE ARE CONFRONTED BY EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH INFLATION (ROUGHTLY 35 PERCENT FOR THIS YEAR), AND UNUSUAL DIFFICULTIES IN ESTIMATING ENROLLMENT FROM ONE YEAR TO NEXT, IN A COUNTRY FACED WITH CONTINUING WAR THREAT. WHILE WE WILL PARE DOWN EXPENDITURES NEXT YEAR IN FACT OF DECLINING ENROLLMENT, IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS TO REDUCE WHOPPING DEFICIT. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR 1974/75 SCHOOL YEAR FROM DEPARTMENT, UNCLASSIFIED

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BRINGING TOTAL GRANT TO AT LEAST \$50,000.

KEATING

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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